



THINK NAMIBIA
Sustainable Forest
Management

TIMBER HARVESTING IN NAMIBIA

POSTER #3

Timber harvesting is the process of cutting or removing trees for wood, paper, and other pulp-based products. **Sustainable timber harvesting** is a utilisation approach by which trees are harvested while ensuring the regeneration of the forest. It requires proper planning, and controlled harvesting, processing, and commercialisation of such products.

In Namibia, harvesting timber is regulated under the **Forestry Act, 12 of 2001**, which stipulates conditions for permitting activities, and for the use of forests and forest produce. Timber harvesting is further listed under the **Environmental Management Act of 2007** as an activity that requires an Environmental Clearance Certificate from the Directorate of Environmental Affairs, <http://eia.met.gov.na>.

In Namibia, timber is harvested for:

- Subsistence use in building homes
- Local sale
- Tourism, lodge constructions
- Furniture and crafts
- Export

FACTS ON TIMBER HARVESTING IN NAMIBIA

Timber costs about N\$ 5,000 per cubic metre.

Revenue from timber harvesting is not maximised, as most of it is exported in its raw form.

About **75,000 tonnes** of Namibian timber were exported in **2019**, mainly to China.

The timber industry is estimated to be worth **over N\$24 Million** a year in revenue for local farmers and land owners.

The availability of good quality timber is limited by the slow growth of local species, requiring from several decades to 100 years to reach the legal harvestable diameter of at least 40 cm.

Pit sawing: A timber processing method whereby the wood is cut into planks at the felling site, using large hand saws. This method produces fewer planks owing to more wood being lost in the cutting process.

Chainsaw milling: An advanced mechanical method of timber processing that allows for the processing of logs and other tree parts prior to export. Despite increasing value addition of produce, it is however costly to set up and maintain.

SUSTAINABLE TIMBER HARVESTING

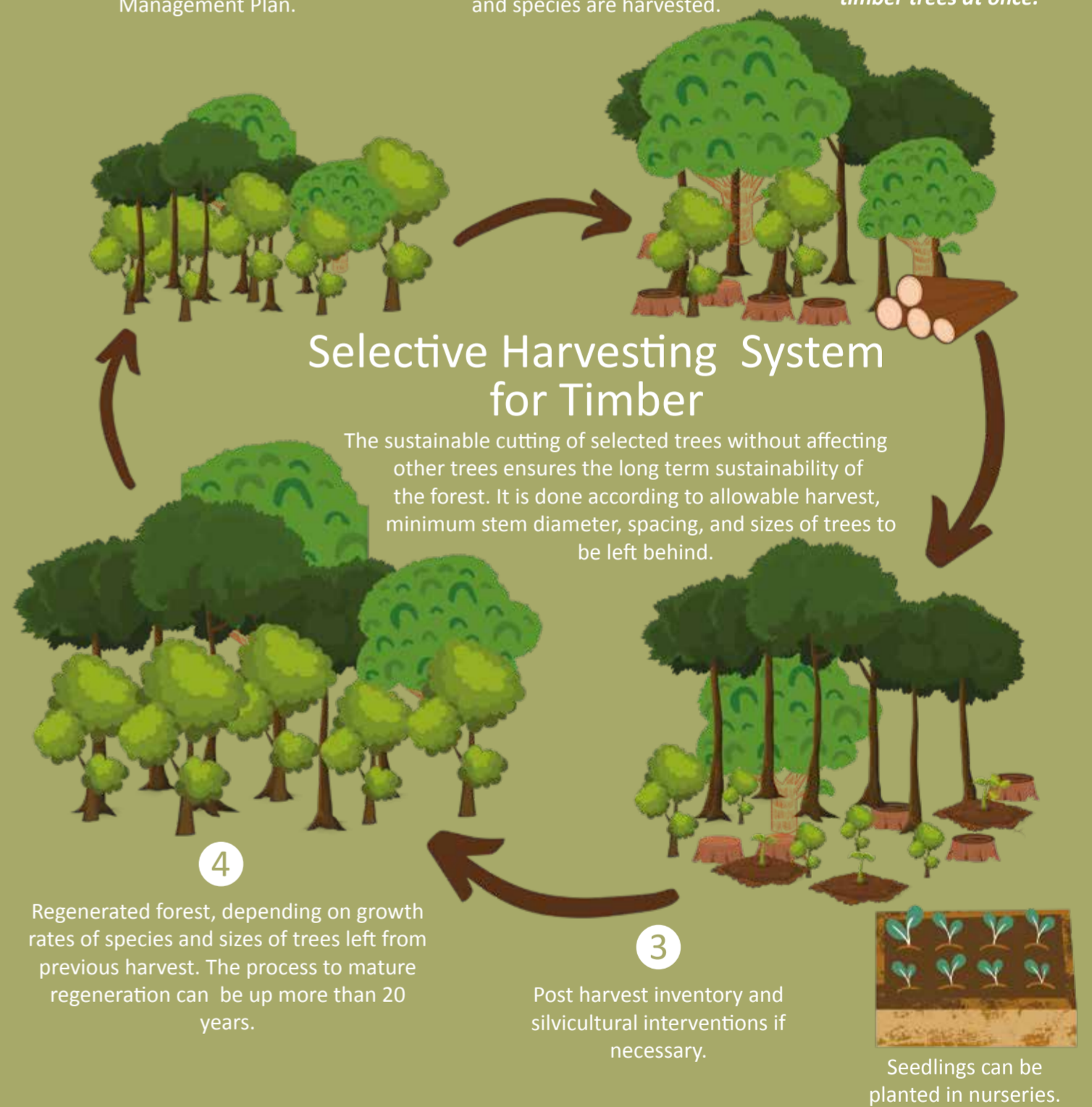
1

Pre-harvest inventory: Determine harvestable amounts, to update Forest Management Plan.

2

Harvest: Based on Forest Management Plan, selected trees and species are harvested.

Care should be taken not to harvest all the best quality timber trees at once.



TIMBER HARVESTING PERMITS

1

Traditional Authority (TA) gives consent for harvesting.

- Consent letter is necessary in communal areas and Community Forests (CFs).
- In commercial areas, owners must provide proof of ownership of land.

2

Permit application is submitted to the Directorate of Forestry (DoF).

Timber harvesting permits can be obtained at:

- Katima Mulilo and Bukalo in Zambezi
- Rundu and Divundu in Kavango East
- Nkurenkuru in Kavango West
- Eenhana, Okongo, and Omafo in Oshana
- Windhoek in Khomas

3

DoF does site inspection.

- The white copy of the permit is given to the applicant.
- The pink copy is sent to head office in Windhoek.
- The blue copy is filed at the issuing office.

4

Inspection report is approved by the Director.

Block permits: The DoF issues block permits to Forest Management Committees of CFs, based on the management plans of such CFs. These are issued to interested CF members or external contractors.

5

Harvesting permit is issued by the DoF.

Other permits issued by DoF: Export, import, marketing, transit, and transport permits.

Timber species in Namibia:

- ROSEWOOD** (*Guibourtia coleosperma*)
- KIAAT** (*Pterocarpus angolensis*)
- ZAMBEZI TEAK** (*Baikiaea plurijuga*)
- WILD SYRINGA** (*Burkea africana*)

Other species valued for their wood in making poles and droppers commercially:

- SILVER LEAF** (*Terminalia sericea*)
- SICKLE BUSH** (*Dichrostachys cinerea*)
- MOPANE** (*Colophospermum mopane*)

MEASURES TO CONTROL OVER-HARVESTING AND ILLEGAL HARVESTING



Conduct baseline inventories.



Carry out post harvest assessments.



Inspections of trucks and containers transporting wood.



Enforce heavier fines and sentences for illegal activities.



Ensure adequate training for foresters and law enforcement officers.

'Promoting Sustainable Forest Management in the Kavango-Zambezi-Region in Namibia'



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